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Written Testimony of (Alex Hoxsie),
Before the Connecticut General Assembly Energy and Technology Committee
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Written Testimony in support of House Bill 5362, AN ACT CONCERNING
RENEWABLE ENERGY

With the world's focus on climate change, there is pressure to increase our clean and renewable energy usage. One such renewable energy is solar power. Harnessing the awesome power of our sun will provide economic benefits while also decreasing our global warming emissions. Establishing an infrastructure for efficient collection and use of renewable energy will help us conquer our dangerous addiction to foreign oil, stabilize our power rates, and create jobs at home. The successes of the Clean Energy Fund and the Energy Efficiency Fund in the past demonstrate the receptiveness of Connecticut citizens to such clean and renewable energy. Incorporating more solar in our overall power usage saves money in the long run and satisfies the moral responsibility we have to lessen our negative impact on each other's health and the natural world.

State legislation supporting the increased use of solar power here in Connecticut will move us forward in offsetting fossil fuel usage with clean alternatives. Not only does using fossil fuels pollute the earth and cost vast sums of money related to foreign policy, procurement, and transportation, but its nature as a non-renewable resource means that it will inevitably run out. How long will we finance such a doomed and destructive energy industry? By taking these steps in improving solar power infrastructure now, we will be better equipped to expedite the major transition to renewable energy in the future as fossil fuel costs rise and reserves diminish.

More specifically to Connecticut, this bill will encourage solar professionals to stay in-state and allow businesses, residents, and communities once again to access solar power incentives. The success of the Clean Energy Fund's rebate program effectively quantifies this desire to incorporate solar power usage in Connecticut, which leads me to believe that the public will accept the modest maximum utility rate increase of 1%. H.B. #5362 also creates 1,200 new "green jobs" over the next decade and will keep our solar professionals from moving to neighboring states with competitive solar power programs such as New Jersey, Massachusetts, and New York.

In addition to lessening our CO₂ emissions that are linked to global warming, solar power also leads to a decrease in smog formation associated with old, dirty coal plants. Particulate

matter from such sources is implicated in respiratory and cardiovascular health risks, including asthma. Emission-free solar power, on the other hand, will decrease our production of greenhouse gases while causing zero health risks.

Thank you for taking the time to review this testimony in support of House Bill #5362. Please support this bill in committee as well!